THE LIFTING OF GOVARDHANA HILL (#2)

from *Krishna Book,* Chapters 24 - 27

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CAST: Krishna, Nanda Maharaja, Indra, Demigoddess, Cowherd Men, Cowherd Boys.

SCENE ONE

(Nanda Maharaja and cowherd men are busily arranging a big festival. Nanda is directing everything. Krishna enters and approaches His father)

Krishna: Dear father, I see that you and the other cowherd men of Vrindavan are preparing for a big ceremony. Please explain to Me the purpose of this ceremony. You cannot keep any secret from Me. Is it according to scriptural injunction, or is it simply a popular holiday?

Nanda: My dear Krishna, this ceremonial performance is more or less traditional. You see, rainfall is very important for our agricultural activities to be successful. Rain comes from clouds, and clouds are representatives of Indra, the king of heaven. We perform this sacrifice every year just to pacify Maharaja Indra.

Krishna: My dear father, there is no need to worship the demigod Indra.

Nanda: But we've always worshiped Indra.

Krishna: The demigods will be satisfied if we do our duties properly, so there is no need to worship them.

Nanda: But we desperately need the rainfall.

Krishna: We do not derive any special benefit from Indra. Even if he is there, he pours water on the ocean also, where there is no need of water. So, he is pouring water on the ocean or on the land; it does not depend on our worshiping him.

Nanda: But we have established a relationship with him. If we break it now, he may become angry.

Krishna: Our specific relationship is with Govardhana Hill and Vrindavan forest and nothing more.

Nanda: So what is Your suggestion?

Krishna: I request you, My dear father, to begin a sacrifice which will satisfy the local *brahmanas* and Govardhana Hill, and let us have nothing to do with Indra.

Nanda: My dear Krishna, I cannot refuse You anything. All right, what would You have us do? How shall we perform this Govardhana Puja?

Krishna: Prepare very nice foodstuffs of all descriptions from the grains and ghee collected for the sacrifice. Prepare rice, *dahl,* then *halava, pakora, puri,* and all kinds of milk preparations like sweet rice, sweet balls, *sandesh, rasagulla,* and *laddu,* and invite the learned *brahmanas* who can chant the Vedic hymns and offer oblations to the fire. The *brahmanas* should be given all kinds of grains in charity. Then decorate all the cows and feed them well.

After performing this, give money in charity to the *brahmanas.* As far as the lower animals are concerned, such as dogs, and the lower grades of people, such as the *chandalas,* they also may be given sumptuous *prasadam.* After giving nice grasses to the cows, the sacrifice known as Govardhana Puja may immediately begin. This sacrifice will very much satisfy Me.

SCENE TWO

Festival Site

Nanda: All the women can begin preparing the *prasadam,* just as Krishna directed. **(the women go to a corner)** My dear friends, please see that the cows are decorated very nicely. **(men go to a corner)** I will make sure that everything is going according to Krishna's plan. **(Nanda and Krishna check everything out)** Is everything ready? Then bring the cows and head for Govardhana. Let us circumambulate the hill! **(big festival dance)**

Narrator: When everything was complete, Krishna assumed a great transcendental form and declared to the inhabitants of Vrindavan that He was Himself Govardhana Hill. Then Krishna ate all the food that was offered there. Krishna Himself along with the other inhabitants of Vrindavan began to worship the Deity as well as Govardhana Hill. From that day, the Govardhana Puja has been still going on annually in all the temples of Vrindavan, as well as in the Krishna consciousness movement of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

SCENE THREE

Indraloka

(Indra is preparing for the sacrifice assisted by demigoddesses. He

dresses up with helmet, cape, arm bands, etc. Knock at the door)

Indra: That must be the chariot to take me to the ceremony. Tell them I am almost ready! **(demigoddess enters fearful and shaking)** What is it? Speak up!

Demigoddess: Oh, unfortunate me that I should be the one to be the bearer of such ill tidings!

Indra: What is it? Stop beating around the bush. It can't be as bad as all that.

Demigoddess: Oh, Lord, the cowherd men have canceled the sacrifice.

Indra: The cowherd men have what?!

Demigoddess: It seems that the young cowherd prince, the son of King Nanda, has convinced them to worship Govardhana Hill instead of you.

Indra: He has? Oh, He has, has He? Ha! Hmpf! That's a good one. Ha! Ha! Very funny. Ha! Ha! **(hysterical laughter, then he shouts):** Samvartaka! Call forth the Clouds of Destruction! The men of Vrindavan have become too puffed-up over their material opulence and their confidence in the presence of their tiny friend, Krishna. He is simply talkative, childish, and unaware of the complete cosmic situation, although He is thinking Himself very advanced in knowledge. Because they have taken Krishna so seriously, the cowherd men must be punished! **(clouds enter)**

Samvartaka, you are usually called only when there is a need to devastate the whole cosmic manifestation. But today I have a special mission. I order you to go to Vrindavan and destroy that place. Kill all the men, women, and children along with their animals. I myself will come riding on my elephant with my great mountain-smashing thunderbolt weapon. Let us go! **(exit and reenter immediately. Violent storm goes on for a few minutes)**

SCENE FOUR

(Vrindavan is inundated. Vraja-vasis enter, frightened, as the storm rages)

Voices: It's a hurricane! A typhoon! It's the end of the world! The rain is like piercing, sharp arrows. It's falling as thick as pillars. Take care of the cows. What about the children? I've never seen anything like it! The water is filling all the land and there is no difference between the hills and the valleys! We'll all be destroyed! Krishna saved us before, and He'll save us again. **(they find Krishna and pray:)** Dear Krishna, You are all-powerful and You are very affectionate to Your devotees. Now

please protect us who have been much harassed by angry Indra!

Krishna: The demigods are all My devotees, and therefore it is not possible for them to forget My supremacy. But somehow or other, this Indra has become puffed-up with material power, and thus he is now maddened. I shall act in such a way to relieve him of this false prestige. **(lifting of Govardhana Hill)** My dear father, My dear brothers, My dear inhabitants of Vrindavan, you can safely enter the umbrella of Govardhana Hill, which I have just lifted. Do not be afraid and think that it will fall from My hand. Be happy along with your animals underneath this great umbrella. **(everyone sits on knees beside Krishna. Storm continues for a while longer as they hold pose)**

Indra: Thundering thunderbolts! Just see how Krishna is holding up Govardhana Hill! The inhabitants of Vrindavan and their animals have remained there for one week without being disturbed by hunger, thirst, or any other discomforts! Desist! Desist! Clouds of Destruction, desist! We are no match for the Master of Mystification! **(Indra and clouds exit)**

SCENE FIVE

(Sunrise music)

Voices: The rain has stopped! Oh, the clouds have cleared!
The sky is blue! Look! The sun is rising!
Krishna has saved us all!!! All glories to Krishna!!!

Krishna: My dear cowherd men, now you can leave and take your wives, children, cows, and valuables, because the danger is over. The inundation has gone down, along with the swelling waters of the river. **(cowherd men load their carts and everyone comes out. Krishna replaces the Hill, and everyone embraces Krishna with great ecstasy. The *gopis* are crying, and all are blessing Krishna. The demigods shower flowers. Conchshells blow, drums and *tambouras* are played)**

SCENE SIX

(Indra appears before Krishna and falls down at His feet)

Indra: Within this material world, there are many fools like myself, who consider themselves to be the Supreme Lord, or the all-in-all within the universe. You are so merciful that without punishing their offenses, you devise means so that their false prestige is subdued and they can know that You, and none else, are the Supreme Personality of Godhead. My dear Lord, I committed a great offense to Your lotus feet, not

knowing Your unlimited power. My Lord, kindly excuse me because I am fool number one. Due to my gross ignorance, I created a great disturbance in Vrindavan by sending torrents of rain and a heavy hail storm. I acted out of severe anger caused by Your stopping the sacrifice which was to be held in my honor. Kindly give me Your blessings so that I may not act so foolishly again. My dear Lord, You are no only the Supreme Controller, but also the spiritual master of all living entities. I therefore take shelter unto Your lotus feet. **(thus praised by Indra, Lord Krishna, smiling beautifully, replies:)**

Krishna: My dear Indra, I have stopped your sacrifice just to show My causeless mercy and to revive your memory that I am your eternal master. I am not only your master, but I am the master of all the other demigods as well. You should always remember that all your material opulence is due to My mercy. Everyone should always remember that I am the Supreme Lord.

Narrator: After this, the transcendental *surabhi* cow, who also came with Indra to see Krishna, offered her respectful obeisances unto Him and worshiped Him. In this way, Krishna was bathed by the milk of the *surabhi* cows, and Indra was bathed by the water of the celestial Ganges through the trunk of his carrier elephant. Thus Govinda, Lord Krishna, was pleased with all of them. The residents of the higher planetary systems all combined and began to glorify the Lord by chanting His Holy Name. **(mellow *kirtan* begins)** Their wives and damsels began to dance with great joy. They very much satisfied the Lord by incessantly pouring flowers from the sky.

When everything was very nicely and joyfully settled, the cows overflooded the surface of the earth with their milk. The water of the rivers began to flow and give nourishment to the trees, producing fruits and flowers of different colors and taste. The trees began to pour drops of honey. The hills and mountains began to produce potent medicinal plants and valuable stones. Because of Krishna's presence, all these things happened very nicely, and the lower animals, who were generally envious, were envious no longer.

After satisfying Krishna, who is the Lord of all the cows in Vrindavan, who is also known as Giridhari, the Lifter of Govardhana Hill, King Indra took permission to return to his heavenly kingdom. He wad surrounded by all kinds of demigods who passed with him through cosmic space **(Indra and attendants leave)** This great incident is a powerful example of how Krishna consciousness can benefit the world.

The End